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HOUSE BILL 5
By Odom

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as an appropriately designated new section:

Section 63-1-1___(a). The commissioner of health is authorized to appoint an advisory board to review the complaints of consumers and other citizens relative to the procedures and operations of the health-related boards. The board shall advise and make recommendations to the commissioner and the governor on issues concerning the health-related boards.

(b) The board shall be composed of five (5) members to be appointed by the commissioner of health; provided, however, only one (1) member may be appointed from a profession licensed by the health-related boards. The director of the division of consumer affairs, codified at Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 47, Chapter 18, Part 50, and the ombudsmen from the governor's office shall also serve as ex-officio members of the board.

(c) The members of the board shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general.

(d) The members of the board shall be appointed by the commissioner for a term of four (4) years and shall serve until their successors are qualified. Members of the board may be reappointed to serve additional terms and may be removed by the commissioner for good cause. The commissioner shall fill all vacancies on the board in accordance with the qualifications set out for the initial appointments.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.